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## Maurice B. Gardner Correspondence

Maurice B. Gardner

Maine State Library

Hilda Jacob

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GARDNER, Maurice B.

Portland, Maine

July, 15, 1905

19 Bristol Street,  
Portland, Maine,  
May 25, 1937

Maine State Library,  
State House,  
Augusta, Maine.

Dear sirs:--

Under separate cover I am mailing a copy of my first published book, inscribed to Maine Author Collection.

Here is a biographical data concerning myself:

Maurice B. Gardner (Desjardin) born July 15, 1905, in Portland. He is the youngest of four sons and one daughter, living, of Jean F. (deceased) and Amanda M. Gardner. The author is of French-Canadian descent, but being born and educated in Portland schools, has no knowledge of the French speaking tongue. He graduated from the West School, and attended Deering High School. He is five feet seven inches in height, weighs about one hundred and fifty pounds. He has dark brown hair, and dark brown eyes. He has been connected with the Portland Terminal Company for the past eleven years as a machinist's assistant. He makes his home with his widowed mother, and has never married.

I trust the above quite completes biographical data requested; but should there be details lacking please don't hesitate to inquire of them, as I am always willing to oblige in whatever nature called upon.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

*Maurice B. Gardner*

P. S. Perhaps I should mention that "Bantan--God-like Islander" was written in the late summer of 1930 and completed in the Spring of 1931.

May 14, 1937

Mr. Maurice B. Gardner  
19 Bristol Street  
Portland, Maine

Dear Mr. Gardner:

Some time ago we read of your first novel, BANTAN -- GOD-LIKE ISLANDER. May we extend to you tardy, but sincere, congratulations on this book.

We are particularly interested in this book, because we hope you are a Maine author, that we may include the book in the Maine Author Collection. There are several hundred volumes on exhibit in this collection, most of them inscribed and presented by the writers. We also maintain a biographical file, in which we keep all such material that our authors send us. The interest and generosity which they have shown in this project are deeply appreciated.

We hope that you will want to inscribe a copy of BANTAN for the Maine Author Collection; and that you will also be so kind as to send us some biographical information.

Please accept our very best wishes for a successful continuation of your writing.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY  
BY

lm

SECRETARY

19 Bristol Street,  
Portland, Maine,  
May 19, 1937

Maine State Library,  
Augusta, Maine.

Dear sirs:--

I am in receipt of your letter dated May 14, and I wish to thank you for your sincere congratulations.

You may rest assured that I am a native Maine born man, for being born in Portland I have lived here my life time thus far--nearly thirty-two years. Considering the various catastrophies that have wracked other states I have every reason to believe I shall continue living in Maine indefinitely.

I most certainly want to inscribe a copy of my first book, "Bantan--God-Like Islander" to the Maine Author Collection. While the novel, one of adventure and romance in the Pacific Ocean near the equator, does not concern my native born state, nevertheless it merely proves the imagination of a Maine man knows no bounds. A number of reviews which I have received from my publishers speak well for it. However, I have hopes of writing a novel with Maine as the setting. As a matter of fact I have several already written which I hope in due time will find their way to book publication.

I would be much more proud of my first effort were it not unfortunately for the dozen or so typographical errors it contains. Taken unexpectedly ill at the time I was correcting the proofs is the reason I give. Would you advise that I correct them in the book I inscribe to the Maine Author Collection? I have sent for a copy, since I had none on hand at the time of your writing. Also tell me whether or not I should, in handwriting, autograph it to the Maine Author Collection.

I shall prepare biographical data meanwhile, and in conclusion thank you very kindly for best wishes toward my successful writing in the future.

Very truly yours,

*Maurice B. Gardner*

May 22, 1937

Mr. Maurice B. Gardner  
19 Bristol Street  
Portland, Maine

Dear Mr. Gardner:

We are delighted that we may claim you as a Maine author, and that we may anticipate an inscribed copy of BANTAN -- GOD-LIKE ISLANDER for the Maine Author Collection. Yes, please do inscribe the book for this collection.

We would prefer that the typographical errors be corrected in this copy, although you are so kind in presenting us with a copy that we hesitate to take advantage of your offer. We believe it would, however, add to the book's value to have such errors corrected, and especially in the author's own hand.

We will be glad to have the biographical material for our files.

The book with a Maine background interests us, of course, and we hope it may find a publisher soon. It is something to which we will look forward with pleasure.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY  
BY

hm  
Encl--return label

SECRETARY

May 26, 1937

Mr. Maurice B. Gardner  
19 Bristol Street  
Portland, Maine

Dear Mr. Gardner:

BANTAN -- GOD-LIKE ISLANDER has been received, and it is with delight that we add it to the Maine Author Collection. The book is truly an imaginative romance, and one which should certainly be popular with all those readers who like adventure.

Thank you for the biographical information, which we are filing for reference. Thank you, too, for the inscribed copy of BANTAN -- GOD-LIKE ISLANDER. Your interest and generosity are very much appreciated.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY  
BY

lm

SECRETARY

19 Bristol Street,  
Portland, Maine,  
August 11, 1937

Maine State Library,  
Augusta, Maine.

Dear sir:--

Under separate cover I am sending to you a copy of my newest book, entitled, "THIS MAN". I have also dedicated it to the MAINE AUTHOR'S COLLECTION. This book, which has just come off the presses, is one of the complimentary copies I received. Pardon me for not sending one with an illustrated jacket as I have none on hand. But after all, I'm sure it is the story that is the main element. The fact that I have managed in many chapters to have a Maine locale should make the book interesting to all Maine people.

It may be interesting to add that my third book (should I be fortunate enough to have it published) will be solely about Maine's great wildernesses. It is already written and ready for the publisher; but first my publishers and I must be assured the public at large becomes interested through "THIS MAN", before we make arrangements to release it.

Trusting "THIS MAN" will be welcomed, I remain,

Very truly yours,

*Waurie B. Gardner*

August 12, 1937

Mr. Maurice B. Gardner  
19 Bristol Street  
Portland, Maine

Dear Mr. Gardner:

How very kind of you to remember the  
Maine Author Collection with an inscribed  
presentation copy of THIS MAN. Please  
accept our very sincere thanks.

Of course we are delighted to notice  
a Maine locale in certain sections of the  
book, and that does indeed make it very  
interesting to us. We hope that THIS  
MAN will meet with a gratifying success.

You have our best wishes for continued  
success, and for a satisfactory arrangement  
for the publication of your third novel.  
We anticipate that for its Maine setting,  
and for the interesting story which we  
know we may expect.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY  
BY

SECRETARY

hm

19 Bristol Street,  
Portland, Maine,  
December 26, 1938

Maine State Library,  
Augusta, Maine.

Dear sirs:--

Under separate cover I am sending an inscribed copy of my newest published book, "SON OF THE WILDERNESS", as I did my first two, "BANTAN--GOD-LIKE ISLANDER" and "THIS MAN". It may be of interest to know my first book is shortly to appear in a second edition, and I shall send you a copy to take the place of "BANTAN--GOD-LIKE ISLANDER". The new edition will be a more appropriate offering because all errors in the first edition have been taken care of.

My newest book's entire action takes place in Maine, and it should be, I hope, a worthy addition to the countless other books our state's authors have inscribed to the Maine State Library.

I remain,

Sincerely yours,

*Wynne B. Gardner*

December 28, 1938

Mr. Maurice B. Gardner  
19 Bristol Street  
Portland, Maine

Dear Mr. Gardner:

The inscribed copy of SON OF THE WILDERNESS has reached the library, and we hasten to send you our appreciative acknowledgment. It is certainly an unusual story, and we are especially delighted that the setting is Maine.

May we congratulate you upon your third book, and wish for it a most satisfactory success.

Thank you for remembering so generously the Maine Author Collection.

Very truly yours

MAINE STATE LIBRARY  
BY

hm

SECRETARY

19 Bristol Street,  
Portland, Maine,  
September 4, 1942

Dear sirs:--

With the publication of each new book I write, I always have in mind the Maine Author's Collection. In this new book I have returned to the scene where the action of my first book took place. I hope very much it is found to be a worthy sequel to its predecessor.

I still am living in Maine, having been born in the city in which I live. For any biographical data that you may wish, I am unmarried, and now making my home with my sister since the death of my mother two years ago. I expect to shortly be in the service of the country.

Very truly yours,

*Maurice B. Gardner*

September 8, 1942

Mr. Maurice B. Gardner  
19 Bristol Street  
Portland, Maine

Dear Mr. Gardner:

It is indeed pleasant to renew our acquaintance with your writing, and we are very glad that you remembered the Maine Author Collection, to which the inscribed gift copy of BANTAN AND THE ISLAND GODDESS is being added.

Many of your friends will be delighted with the further adventures of this hero, and we wish the book every success.

Please accept our thanks for your friendly letter and gift to the exhibit.

Very truly yours

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BY

hmj  
Encl--6¢ postal refund

SECRETARY

19 Bristol Street,  
Portland, Maine,  
February 25, 1939

Maine State Library,  
Augusta, Maine

Dear sirs:--

When I sent you a copy of "Son of the Wilderness", I promised to forward a "second edition" copy of "Bantan--God-Like Islander" to replace the imperfect copy of the first edition. Under separate cover I have forwarded such a copy, also inscribed to the Maine Author's Collection. It would please me very much that the "first edition" copy be removed and this new copy be substituted. Perhaps it is only natural that authors wish their best efforts to be exhibited in the State Capital Library. I, of course, am no exception.

Although at the present time I cannot predict any future activities in the nature of offering new published books to the reading world, you have my assurance of receiving a copy of any new works that might appear under my name.

You may return the "first edition" copy of "Bantan" to me, if you wish. Or, if you wish, you may retain it. It is of no consequence.

Very truly yours,

*Wm. B. Gardner*

February 28, 1939

Mr. Maurice B. Gardner  
19 Bristol Street  
Portland, Maine

Dear Mr. Gardner:

The copy of BANTAN -- GOD-LIKE ISLANDER,  
in the second edition, which you very kindly  
have inscribed and presented to the Maine Author  
Collection, has been received.

Please accept our thanks for your continued  
and generous interest in the collection. We are  
very glad to add this volume to your others, and  
trust that in the future, we may be privileged to  
include many more.

Very truly yours

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SECRETARY